

Level 1 Instructor Course
4 Weeks
Fernie, Canada

Available in: Ski, Snowboard

COURSE OVERVIEW

Bio

Get ready for four epic weeks of powder-hounding and top-level coaching that gear you up for your CSIA Level 1. You'll ride one of our favourite mountains in Canada, conquer some serious steep and deep, and immerse yourself in Fernie's funky town and lively outdoor culture. Featuring pro coaching, combined with big mountain freeriding and local Canadian adventures, this course will leave you with boosted skills, new friends, and stack of snow-laden memories.

Location

The course takes place in Fernie, British Columbia, a world-renowned powder paradise boasting five natural bowls, the biggest vertical drop in the Rockies, and some of the best tree skiing on Earth. Known for its deep snow and diverse terrain, Fernie offers something for every rider, with everything from power-filled bowls to challenging steeps. The town's laid-back Canadian vibe and welcoming culture make it a perfect base to experience the Rockies while skiing and snowboarding with new mates.

Goal

The goal of this course is to equip you with the skills to pass the CSIA/CASI Level 1 exam, as well as enhance your freeride abilities to tackle the entire mountain. With expert coaching throughout, you'll refine your technical skills, learn CSIA/CASI teaching methodology, and boost your all-mountain prowess. Along the way, you'll explore the best zones in Fernie and forge new connections with like-minded riders, as you bond over shared adventure.

Riders

This course is perfect for riders looking to qualify as an instructor, or those seeking a short gap year or sabbatical experience. For a range of skill levels from intermediate to expert, it's ideal for anyone passionate about skiing or snowboarding and eager to improve. Whether you're aiming for certification to kickstart a career, or just an epic four weeks, this course offers a chance to challenge yourself, meet like-minded individuals, and experience Canada's incredible terrain. Many solo travellers join, becoming part of a tight-knit Nonstop community.

Accommodation

You'll stay in the Nonstop-owned Red Tree Lodge, centrally located with queen-sized beds and amenities such as a hot tub, cinema, bar and more.

You can choose between twin-share or private rooms.

Breakfasts and included evening meals are served in the lodge restaurant.

Dates + Prices

Refer to the website Course Page for upcoming dates and prices.

Inclusions

The course includes all your coaching and exam fees, accommodation, lift passes, airport transfers, breakfasts, evening meals, hosting and more.

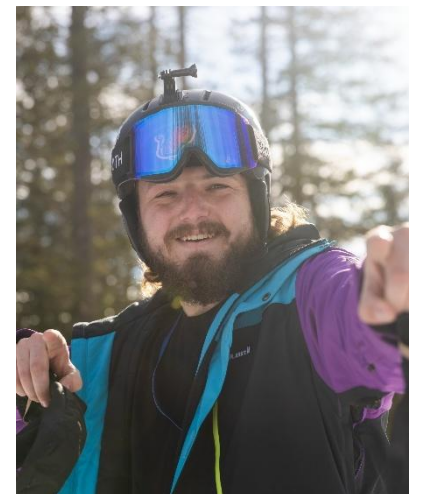
The main additional costs you need to factor in are travel, insurance and equipment.

Refer to the website Course Page for a full breakdown of inclusions.

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I not only improved my riding, I made some really close friends. Hanging out with the crew and pushing each other to progress made the whole experience unforgettable. The course struck the perfect balance between coaching and just having a blast with new people. If you want to up your game and meet some great folks along the way, this is the place to be.

– Brendon





RESORT

Fernie, British Columbia

Snowfall

30ft

Fernie is one of the best places to experience Canada's famous powder, with an average of 30ft of snowfall each year. And it's not just the quantity of snow that's so good, it's also the quality of it. A combination of local weather systems and Pacific fronts are to thank for Fernie's frequent dumps and feather-light flakes.

Alpine Bowls

5

The ski area consists of five interconnected alpine bowls: Cedar, Lizard, Currie, Timber and Siberia. Each bowl has unique character, with steep descents and tight chutes, smooth groomers, tree runs and powder fields. Fernie has more expert terrain than most other ski areas, with its rugged and ungroomed slopes providing some of the best conditions for advanced progression and pushing yourself further.

Skiable Acres

2,500+

One of the largest ski areas in the Canadian Rockies, Fernie boasts over 2,500 acres of varied terrain, including 1,800 acres of tree skiing guarded from the elements. Fernie has the biggest vertical in the Canadian Rockies, with a top elevation of 7,000ft at Polar Peak and spectacular views across the Lizard Range and Elk Valley.

Runs

142

With the most ski runs in the Rockies, riders have plenty of groomed and ungroomed terrain to choose from. There are 142 marked trails, with 75 rated as black or double black. From cruisy blue runs to steep blacks and gladed trees, Fernie has something for all levels of challenge. Falling Star in Siberia Bowl is the longest at 5km long.

Town

The town of Fernie is located in the valley, a short distance from the ski area, and promises a real taste of Canadian mountain life. A genuine mountain settlement rather than a tourist resort, historic downtown has a funky and laid-back vibe, with plenty of indie shops, bars, restaurants and coffee stores. Whether its late nights, live music or a fresh coffee, every vibe and venue is covered.



COACHING

Sessions 4/week

Each coaching session is a full day of riding, led by your Nonstop coach. With a varied schedule no week is the same, but the typical setup is four days of coaching per week, with a weekday and the weekends for rest, freeskiing or other activities we lay on. The primary goal is to equip you with the skills to pass your CSIA/CASI Level 1, refining your technique, demos and teaching toolbox, as well as sharpening your all-mountain skills through guided freeride training.

Groups By Ability

This course is designed for a range of abilities from intermediate through to expert. We organise groups by ability and attitude to ensure you ride with people of a similar skill level and outlook, creating an environment of progression and camaraderie.

Group Size 8 Riders

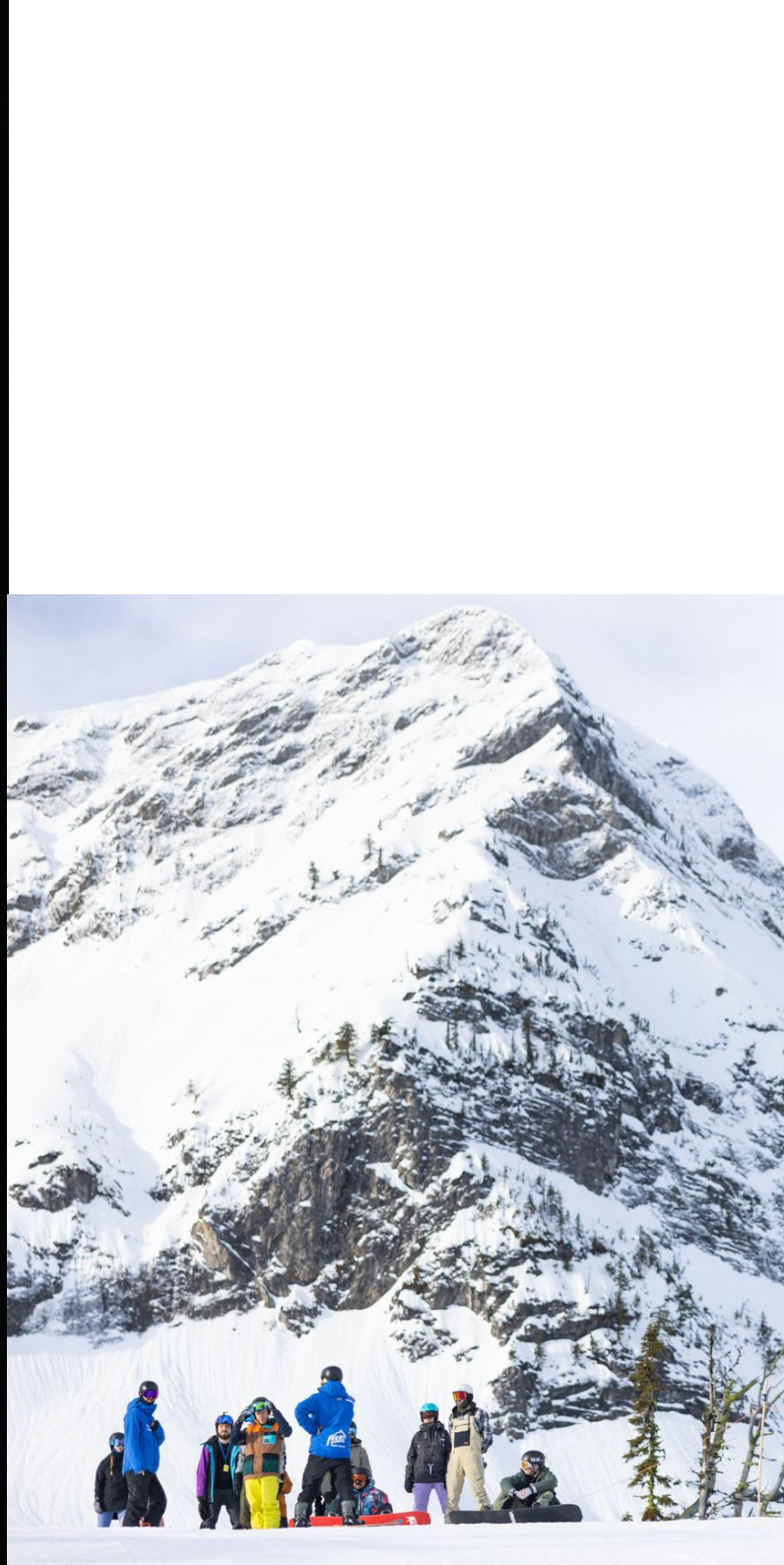
We aim for groups of no more than 8 riders to a coach. Our small group sizes create an optimal dynamic from both a coaching and social perspective, allowing for one-on-one feedback, peer learning and a good social vibe.

Coaches Level 3/4

You'll be coached by highly qualified instructor trainers, all passionate about skiing and snowboarding, and dedicated to helping you grow. Each week you will rotate between coaches, allowing you to benefit from different teaching styles and insights. They'll guide you to Fernie's hidden zones and share advice on the industry, providing tips and tactics to develop your skills.

Qualifications CSIA/CASI

You will be training for the CSIA/CASI Level 1 certification, which qualifies you to teach beginner skiers. The Level 1 is an entry-level qualification, enabling you to teach beginners, and consists of both skiing and teaching components.



A TYPICAL DAY

This is a guideline only; each day may vary with different focuses, timings, and personal choices

07:30

Breakfast

Start your day with a hearty breakfast at the lodge. After fuelling up, it's time to gear up, hop on the Nonstop bus, and head to Fernie Alpine Resort, where an action-packed day of training awaits.

09:00

Briefing + Morning Session

Meet your group and coach for a briefing on the day's goals. This could be a focus on improving your personal riding or honing your teaching skills. After a warm-up, it's time to ride. Your coach will provide real-time feedback to enhance your performance and ability to teach others.

12:00

Lunch

Take a well-deserved break and refuel with lunch. Grab a classic Canadian poutine or enjoy a hearty bowl chilli. Connect with fellow riders, sharing insights from the morning's session and getting ready for the afternoon's skill-development.

13:00

Afternoon Session

The afternoon session is all about cementing the skills you've worked on in the morning. Your coach will guide you through the CSIA/CASI framework, reinforcing what you've learned and helping you develop your teaching toolbox, all while continuing to explore and conquer new terrain.

15:00

Après + Relax

After a full day of riding, head to local favourite Griz Bar, for apres-ski drinks and conversation with your coursemates. If you prefer to chill, return to the lodge for some downtime, relaxing in the hot tub or hanging out at the lodge bar.

19:00

Dinner + Socials

Enjoy a delicious three-course dinner prepared by our in-house chefs. Afterward, join the evening social scene – watch the local ice hockey team in action, or head out to enjoy Fernie's vibrant pubs and bars for a jam night or live music. For a quieter night, you can always take it easy and rest up.



WHY RIDE WITH NONSTOP

Coaching

Helping riders progress at sports they love in skiing and snowboarding is at the heart of what we do. With expert local coaches and guides, we create a supportive and social environment to ensure you're challenged, progressing, and riding the best zones on the mountain.

Authentic Travel

Run-of-the-mill is just not our thing. We focus on authentic destinations with the perfect blend of snow, terrain and culture, adding local twists and touches of adventure to create experiences you'll remember long after your time with us.

People

Designed for like-minded skiers and riders, you'll join a diverse group of people bound by a love of the mountains and shared desire to progress together. You're guaranteed a sociable trip, and everyone leaves with new friends.

All You Need

Just turn up and ride – we'll take care of the rest. Our packages include all your coaching and accommodation, with lift passes, airport transfers, meals, socials, hosting and more. Less hassle, more ride time.

Experience

When you travel with Nonstop you can have peace of mind that you are booking with a trusted and award-winning instructor training provider with over 20 years of expertise. We have a track record of delivering courses, with many alumni working in the industry around the world.

Responsible

We're a proud member of 1% for the Planet, dedicated to fostering positive environmental change. By donating 1% of all sales to environmental non-profits, including Protect Our Winters, we're committed to supporting meaningful initiatives that make a difference.

NEXT STEPS

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About Nonstop A collective of passionate skiers and snowboarders, Nonstop Snow runs a collection of ski and snowboard instructor, all-mountain and backcountry camps for people who dream of pushing their level.

Founded 2002